



ParentInfo

News for a child's most important educator

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Make sure your child is ready to start school

Enrolling your child in a Kentucky public school for the first time this year? Make sure to call the district prior to the start of school to make sure your child is ready for the first day.

Under Kentucky law, students are required to have a [Kentucky Immunization Certificate](#), an original birth certificate or proof of age and identification, proof of residency, copy of child's social security card, and any transcripts or report cards from a prior school.

Students entering school for the first time and students entering 6th grade must also have a [preventative health care exam](#) performed no more than one year before admission.

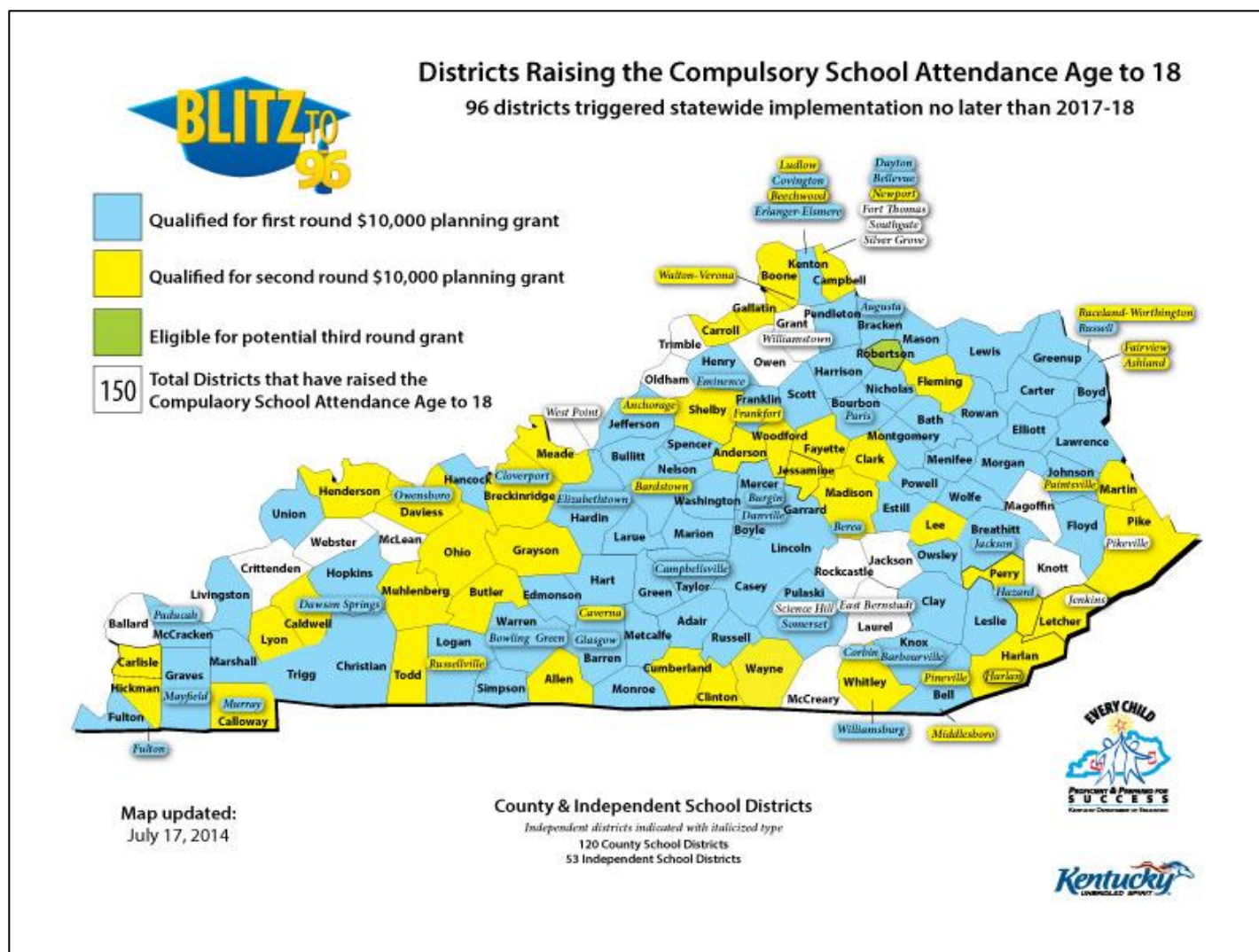
Students who are 5 or 6 years old also require a dental screening with the [dental exam form](#) due to the school by Jan. 1 of the school year. Students who are 3 to 6 years old require an eye exam with the [eye exam form](#) due by Jan. 1 of the school year.

For [more information on enrollment](#) and for [all the needed forms](#), see the Kentucky Department of Education's [website](#).



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150 districts raise compulsory attendance age, receive grants to help implement

The number of school districts that have adopted policies raising the compulsory attendance age to 18 per the requirements of Senate Bill 97 is now at 150 out of 173.

The 53 districts that raised the compulsory school age from 16 to 18 in the past year will be receiving \$10,000 grants from the Kentucky Department of Education to create programs that identify, intervene and prevent students from dropping out of school and to plan for implementation of the new policy in the 2015-16 school year, the first year that the policy can be fully implemented.

The department made similar grants to the first group of districts to raise the dropout age.

Under the statute enacted in 2013 at the urging of Gov. Steve Beshear and First Lady Jane Beshear, [once 96 districts](#), 55 percent of the 173 school districts in the state, approved the change, the rest would have to follow suit. This requirement was met just two weeks after the law took effect and as a result, starting in 2017-18, all Kentucky districts will be required to keep students in school until they turn 18 or graduate.

"I would encourage the remaining 23 districts that have not yet taken action to raise the compulsory school age to 18, to do so immediately," said Commissioner Terry Holliday. "It is vital that districts plan for implementation of this new policy and waiting will only put them at a disadvantage and

Access to quality education for all



**Arne
Duncan**

The U.S. Department of Education announced new requirement for states to develop an educator equity plan to ensure every child has access to a quality education and quality educators.

The Excellent Educators for All Initiative is designed to help states and school districts support great educators for the students who need them most.

"All children are entitled to a high-quality education regardless of their race, zip code or family income. It is critically important that we provide teachers and principals the support they need to help students reach their full potential," U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said.

As part of the initiative states will have to submit a new State Educator Equity Plan to the department by April 2015. The plan must describe steps the state department of education will take to ensure that "poor and minority children are not taught at higher rates than other children by inexperienced, unqualified, or out-of-field teachers."

The U.S. Department of Education will also make state-specific teacher equity profiles available to the public on the department's website. In his weekly blog, Kentucky Department of Education Commissioner Terry Holliday said Kentucky has developed similar state plans since 2006 for Title I and Title II.

"Certainly as we develop a new state plan in preparation for the April 2015 deadline, we will seek feedback from all stakeholders involved," Holliday said.

"With the dedication to doing what's best for children that our educators and other stakeholders regularly exhibit, I have no doubt that Kentucky will once again be a shining example for other states of equal educational opportunity for all."

To read the commissioner's full blog post about the initiative go [here](#).



**Terry
Holliday**



KHEAA advises to check KEES accounts for accuracy

Parents of high school students should check their child's Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) accounts for accuracy.

KEES, administered by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA), allows students to earn money for college by getting good grades in high school and for qualifying scores on the ACT or SAT. Students eligible for free or reduced lunches may also earn awards for good scores on Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams.

To check awards and personal information, parents and students need to use the MyKHEAA function on www.kheaa.com. To set up an account use the "Sign In" button on the KHEAA home page.

Parents and students can verify that the KEES GPA is correct by taking the letter grade for each course taken during the year and converting it to a 4.0 scale. For example, an A = 4.0, B = 3.0, etc. AP and IB course grades receive one extra point, making an A = 5.0, B = 4.0, etc. To get the GPA, add all the points together and divide by the total by the number of credits earned during the year.

Also check personal information. Contact your child's counselor to have GPAs or other information corrected. For help with a MyKHEAA account, call the KHEAA College Access Team at 800-928-8926.

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deprive students who do drop out in the meantime of the opportunity to get the help they need to become college/career-ready."

Holliday said the department will seek to provide the same \$10,000 planning grants to the remaining districts.

Under the terms of the grant, 75 percent of the money must go toward programs targeting at-risk elementary and middle school students; the remainder may be used for dropout prevention at the high school level.

"Even though the policy really has an impact at the high school level, if we can identify students in the lower grades who are at risk for dropping out of school later on and provide them support, we will have a much better chance of them staying in school and graduating college/career-ready," said Holliday

Among the 96 districts that received a grant a year ago, the majority used the money for digital/virtual curriculum, alternative education programs and support, individual student intervention and response to intervention and toward a dedicated staff person to be responsible for dropout prevention and intervention.

"We've seen districts take a hard look at their data such as kindergarten readiness, the number of students not on grade level, and behavior and attendance numbers to determine the real need for dropout prevention services in their districts," said Office of Next-Generation Schools and Districts Associate Commissioner Kelly Foster.

"The key is to have programs across the school continuum that can address issues before they become so severe that a student feels they have no choice but to leave school."

School districts will delve deeper into the strategies of dropout prevention as the state hosts the 26th Annual National Dropout Prevention Network Conference, November 2-5 in Louisville.

Environmental education master plan being developed

The Kentucky Environmental Education Council (KEEC) will hold public meetings in August seeking input on the state's five -year environmental education master plan. The plan will guide environmental education delivery throughout the state.

Educators, parents, business and industry representatives, administrators are all invited to participate, said KEEC Executive Director Elizabeth Schmitz. The meetings are:

- 1-4 p.m. Aug. 12, Middlesboro Campus of Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College
- 9 a.m. to noon, Aug. 13, First Federal Center, Hazard Community and Technical College
- 1-4 p.m., Aug. 14, Center for Advanced Manufacturing Room, Gateway Community and Technical College, Florence
- 1-4 p.m., Aug. 19, Downtown Campus of Jefferson Community and Technical College, Louisville
- 4:30-7 p.m., Aug. 21, Perkins Hall, Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond

Additional meetings are being planned for Western Kentucky. More information here: [KEEC website](#)

Grandparents as Parents Conference

The Madison County Cooperative Extension Service will hold the Grandparents as Parents Conference 2014 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 3 at the Extension Service office at 230 Duncannon Lane in Richmond.

Speakers will include a girl and her grandfather who will talk about their experience, Donna Bentley speaking on how to store important documents and prepare for crisis situations and Dr. Judy Keith discussing ADHD and bullying. Registration is free by calling (859) 623-4072 until Aug. 27. Lunch is provided.

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